

REMARKS

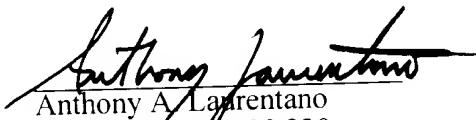
Applicant amends the specification to address minor formal matters, such as introducing appropriate section headers. Applicant also amends the claims to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper antecedent basis, and to address other matters of form. The foregoing amendments introduce no new matter and are not related to issues of patentability.

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully in order and requested.

If there are any questions regarding the amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP


Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No. 38,220
Attorney for Applicant

28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 227-7400

Date: 7/23/01

VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS WITH CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Page 1, lines 3-4:

The present invention relates to a method and device for producing light-metal pellets according to the preamble of Claim 1 and a device for working this method.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-9 as follows:

1. (Amended) A Method for producing light-metal pellets, comprising feeding in which molten light metal is fed into a gap between two cooling bodies, and in which dividing the molten light metal is divided up into pellets of specified size along attenuation lines or by completely separating them before it completely solidifies the pellets solidify, and characterized in that adding fibers, particles or similar additives are added before the molten light metal (3) enters the gap (4).

2. (Amended) The Method according to claim 1, characterized in that comprising synchronously moving the cooling bodies (1) move synchronously and are starting from an initial arrangement in which their surfaces of the cooling bodies are spaced a certain distance from each other, then move into a second arrangement in which their the surfaces move close together to form the gap (4), and subsequently move back into the spaced arrangement.

3. (Amended) The ~~M~~method according to claim 2, wherein in the step of moving, characterized in that the motion from the initial to the third arrangement of the cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ occurs from top to bottom, further comprising the step of feeding the molten light metal ~~(3) being fed~~ into a funnel ~~(2)~~ formed between the cooling bodies ~~(1)~~.

4. (Amended) The ~~M~~method according to ~~one of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1, comprising generating characterized in that first a strip of connected pellets exiting ~~from~~ the cooling bodies ~~is generated which consists of connected pellets, such and that this~~ the strip is not broken up into individual pellets until a later stage.

5. (Amended) The ~~M~~method according to ~~one of the foregoing claims~~ of claim 1, characterized in that wherein the light metal ~~comprises magnesium is utilized as the light metal~~.

6. (Amended) A ~~D~~device for implementing the method according to ~~one of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ have comprise depressions on ~~their~~ opposing faces such that the molten light metal ~~(3)~~ between the two cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ ~~may be~~ is formed into pellets of the shape determined by the depressions.

7. (Amended) A ~~D~~device for working the method according to ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ have the form of conveyor belts with two reversing points each, and a cooling zone provided between them along which the two cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ form the gap ~~(4)~~ or are disposed in contact with one another.

8. (Amended) Utilization of a device in which the comprising two cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ have having ridges ~~(7)~~ projecting from ~~their~~ opposing faces, such that the molten light metal ~~(3)~~ between the two cooling bodies ~~(1)~~ ~~may be~~ are formed into pellets ~~(8)~~, which

are separated by the ridges (7), to work the method according to ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1.

9. (Amended) Utilization of a device ~~in which the~~ comprising two cooling bodies (1) are designed as two wheels or rollers which are arranged adjacent to or ~~in contact with~~ one another so as to form ~~the~~ a gap (4) ~~with their~~ between circumferential edges, to work the method according to ~~one of claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1.